

A L E T T E R

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

HENRY FOX, Esq;

O N C E

Secretary of State.

S I R,

IT is not from a Design to court your Favour by satirizing others, the modern Method of flattering great Men; nor yet from a Fondness of Complimenting, which often leads to the highest Invective, that this LETTER is addressed to you. It is solely from a Respect to Truth, and a Desire to vindicate a misrepresented City from the Calumny with which the Violence of Faction has loaded it unjustly; a Violence which is confined indeed only to a Few, and therefore contemptible as it is outrageous: Yet, however despicable Defamation may be, its Injustice does not always destroy its Credibility. Invective, whether aim'd at the Person or the Vice, has something too pleasing, not to gain Patrons; and the more it is undeserved, the more grateful is the Satyr when it comes recommended by Keeness and a Shew of Candour. Under the Mask of the latter Men cannot push the former too far; for to deal in Extremes is the Business of State-Writers; and whether they blacken or whiten, their Colouring ought to be high, if they intend to please: Truth is ever remote from their Regard, and therefore it is not strange that the fairest Character, even Yours, Sir, should sometimes be sullied by the Gall of saucy Scriblers: But a Kingdom is not to be judged of from the Rage of a disappointed few.

SIR, the People of this Kingdom being remote from the Metropolis of *England*, the great Centre of *British* Business, are in general happily removed from its Prejudices and Passions; and however virulent they may have been, when they themselves were distracted by Parties, *which were fortunately united under your Administration*, they now think coolly of the Conduct of *Britain*; and, as simple Passengers may discover Rocks to which the Navigators are Strangers, they see the Tendency of that Enthusiasm so very prevailing, by which it is as easy to lead a City as a Family, the Spirit being difficultly raised, but readily communicated and hardly suppressed.

How this Spirit was raised and propagated in *England*, every Paper from the *Evening Post* to the *Chester Courant* will inform us: It is true, the unprosperous Events of War, during the last Summer, gave Occasion for Discontent, and for those Clamours to which free States are and ever must be subject: But these were increased and fomented to a Fury that made a temporary Change of Ministers, prudent, tho' much to be regretted. The best Ministers cannot always be sure of the Virtue of those whom they employ: Demands of Justice on the Offenders were made and complied with: And here, Sir, I may with great Propriety ask, Who was so active, who so hasty as you to bring the first Criminal to a deserved Punishment? Did your private Humanity once interpose to delay the Execution of his doubtful Sentence? Did not the Love of your Country drown all those Feelings (to which milky-Minded Men give way) and silence even the Voice of Pity to him, with whom you had been so nearly connected, and whom you had employed: What did *Junius Brutus* do more? He sacrificed his Sons, and you sacrificed your Bosom Friend.

*Nec vestra feretur
Fama levis, tantive abolefcet gratia facti.*

DURING the tumultuary State of Things, you laid down the Rod of Employment, and returned to those domestic Enjoyments which good Minds receive from parental Tendernefs, from candid Friendship and social Communication: But what was the unhappy Consequence? A new Ministry succeeded, wild with new Schemes, with Projects not dreamed of these forty Years; Projects that might hope for Success in rude unpolished Countries, but as unfit for the Meridian of these Islands, as Slavery is for the barren Rocks of *Switzerland*. They introduced their Dreams even into Parliament; while you endeavoured to awaken them in vain. They treated a crazy, as if it had been a sound Constitution, and instead of Lenitives were ever applying or attempting to apply Corrosives. They affected to be singular and persevered in disturbing that happy Tranquility and careless Ease in which the Kingdom had slumber'd during the glorious Administrations of your Predecessors and You: During these Extravagancies, with what Pains, with what Earnestness did you recommend even *their* Schemes for raising the public Supplies? How fervent were your Solicitations to *G---d---n* and *V---n---k*, the great Directors of *British* Funds? Yet all was ineffectual, for the Schemes were weakly projected. They brought their *K----* almost to the Danger of Want; sent his Son, that Glory of the World, to fight for the Continent of *Germany*, without *English* Attendants or *English* Money; and yet thus unpolitic, thus unsuccessful, they pretended Affection to their Prince, affected a determined Resolution to enquire thoroughly into the Grounds of their Country's Misfortunes, and dared even to glance with Scorn upon Those, who are now by this Enquiry found Upright and Wise, and whose only Crime is that they were in one Circumstance unfortunate; for, your Voice, Sir, and the Voice of your Friends have acquitted them.

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It could not, Sir, appear strange to wise Men that these young Adventurers were unsuccessful; it could not seem unjust that they should be dismissed to make Room for abler Statesmen, for Men knowing in the Arts of Government, and reconciled to the Distempers of the State. Yet they are no sooner dismissed, than a Spirit of Enthusiasm, the wild Consequence of extraordinary Measures, seizes the Multitude, who are too prone to approve what is new, be it never so absurd. The People are fed with Conceits, that these young Politicians had planned Schemes of Economy, of Reformation, of *British* Strength and Greatness; Fancies which during the soft Repose of the preceding Administrations, had never once misguided their Reason; and drunk with their own Imaginations, they set up these unsuccessful Men, whom you had so warmly, tho' vainly endeavoured to direct, as Idols worthy of Admiration: Even the great City of *London* grows wanton, and in a Fit of Phrenzy, gives the Nation an Example of Enthusiasm, which ever spreads the more, as it is more distant from Moderation and Justice.

A FEW discontented Minds caught the Infection even here, and by the Voice of public Rumour, which sounded like Treason, endeavoured to communicate their Disorder to others; But wiser Men saw their Designs, and checked their Progress; Full of that Repentment which Disappointment excites, they proceeded with an Appearance of Coolness and Patriot Love, to represent their Case to the Image whom they would vainly force the King to set up: Happily, Sir, their Attempts, and their Representations have had equal Success: The Corporation of *London* had but one wise Dissenter from its late strange Resolutions; *Dublin* can boast that it has not in its Corporation one Man so extravagant as to propose such Resolutions: This Kingdom has lately received too many Blessings from your Administration, to be so soon misguided by the concealed Friends of unexperienced Pilots. After being long tossed in a Sea of Faction, we saw, no later than the last Session, Unanimity restored, and all Parties reconciled by the same Means, and upon the same Principles: We cannot forget the Instrument of this happy Reconciliation; we shall not forget the great Personage who directed it: To your upright Councils we are indebted for all: Virtue indeed is too often neglected, too often unsuccessful; yet we do not therefore doubt but you, Sir, will soon prevail, and restore your native Country, to that Tranquility, which at present we enjoy, who glide thro' Life with the comfortable Reflection of never crossing the Willies nor even interfering in the Purposes of our Governors. However wildly, Sir, that Enthusiast may think, who in his Letter to the Secretary of Yesterday, declares that he speaks the Sentiments of all his Countrymen who are not governed by Interest or misled by Faction, permit me to assure you that his Assertion was groundless, and that he was only hunting for a Party, when he triumphed in having the strongest. This City, so well known for its Loyalty, and candid Approbation of those Ministers, who follow long-established Plans, instead of new Inventions, is devoted both to your Measures and to your Friends; it is our Pleasure to hope for, and will be our Happiness to receive a Viceroy whom you have approved, One, who like the last Peace-maker and Saviour of this Kingdom, will unite Men for the Publick Quiet, and instead of promoting Contests and Divisions for Straws, will by superior Wisdom remove at once both the Effect and the Cause of Dissention.

I am, Sir,

with the highest Respect,

Your devoted Slave,

An Alderman of the City of Dublin.

